

*Hydroptila occulta* (Eaton) (Trichoptera: Hydroptilidae), a caddisfly new to Ireland with notes on *Hydroptila martini* Marshall

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In June 1973 while collecting aquatic insects on a small stream in Co. Cavan, J. P. O'Connor captured two male caddisflies belonging to the family Hydroptilidae. Both specimens were identifiable as *Hydroptila occulta* (Eaton) using Mosely (1939) and Macan (1973). This species had not been previously recorded from Ireland. However in 1975 while visiting the British Museum of Natural History, Dr. J. E. Marshall informed him that there were possibly three distinct species known as *H. occulta* in Great Britain. At that time, Dr. Marshall was working on the taxonomy of the Hydroptilidae.

On the 13th June 1976, both authors visited the Co. Cavan stream to collect material of "*occulta*" for Dr. Marshall. The chosen day was a sunny one and hydroptilid adults swarmed in abundance on rocks and in vegetation beside the running water. Over fifty specimens belonging to the "*occulta*" group were obtained. This number was only a tiny proportion however of the adult population. We sent most of the specimens to Dr. Marshall for determination and she informed us that they belonged to a new species which she was then describing.

Subsequently Dr. Marshall (1977) showed that in addition to *H. occulta*, two closely related species *H. martini* Marshall and *H. valesiaca* Schmid, occurred in Great Britain. These had been previously confused with *H. occulta*. To-date, only *H. martini* has been recorded from Ireland (Marshall, 1978a, b).

Over the last few years, we have had the opportunity of collecting hydroptilids in several areas of Ireland. This material has provided one record of *H. occulta* and several of *H. martini*. In addition, a re-examination of the 1973 adults from Cavan has shown that one of them belongs to the true *H. occulta*. Unfortunately, the genitalia of the other individual is missing. Our records for the two species are listed below.

I. Kilmastulla River, Co. Tipperary.

In 1976, one of us (M.A.O'C.) was involved in monitoring the effects of mine discharge on the Kilmastulla River. Both species were found above and immediately below the highest point of discharge in June (Irish grid reference R 804726). The specimens consisted of male and female pupae which were attached to vegetation. Macrophytes are plentiful on the heavily silted substratum with *Potamogeton*, *Ranunculus*, *Apium* and *Callitriche* all common. This stretch of the river is canalised; it is 5 m wide and 0.5 m deep in summer. It is rich with pH of 7.7 and conductivity of 364. The effluent contains heavy metals and organic substances but has not mixed significantly with the river water where the pupae occurred. Two males of *H. occulta* were collected further upstream (R 805726) on the 15th June 1976.

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II. Small stream near Bellanagh, Co. Cavan (N 395961). This stream provided the first Irish records of both *H. occulta* and *H. martini*. It is narrow, about one metre in width, and consists of small pools, rapids and waterfalls. Macrophytes are abundant. Adults of *H. martini* were very plentiful. In addition, hydroptilid pupae and fifth instar larvae were common on submerged rocks and vegetation. The specimen of *H. occulta* was captured on either the 16th or 17th June 1973.

III. Small stream near Drinagh, Co. Wexford (T 056176). Five males and one female of *H. martini* were captured by us near a small muddy stream on the 9th June 1978. The specimens were crawling about in bright sunshine on the leaves of a tree. A deep water-filled quarry is situated nearby.

IV. Small stream near Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath (N 436754). This stream provided the only August (18.8.1978) record of *H. martini*. A single male was taken as it crawled on the parapet of a bridge. The stream is a tributary of the Glone River. It is generally muddy but an inflowing rivulet has formed a small bank of gravel near the bridge.

#### Acknowledgement

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#### References

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ETHMIA BIPUNCTELLA (FABR.) IN THE ROCHESTER DISTRICT. — I took a fine specimen of this moth at my M.V. trap on the night of August 17/18 1977, at Upper Delce Farm, Rochester (TQ74/65). — ALFRED G. J. BUTCHER, 28, The Fairway, Rochester, Kent. [The headquarters of this moth is at Dungeness, and it is rarely recorded from elsewhere in the county. — J. M. C.-H.]

TELEIOPSIS DIFFINIS HAWORTH (LEP.: GELECHIIDAE). — I was interested in Mr. P. A. Sokoloff's note on this Gelechiid in the Nov./Dec. 1979 issue of the Record. I was at Dungeness at the Week-end of 15th/16th September, 1979 and had several examples of this species in my trap. I have also had it in several Suffolk localities in August and September as as in June. — H. E. CHIPPERFIELD, The Shieling, Walberswick, Southwold, Suffolk.